

Appl. No. 09/814,402
Response dated September 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Amended Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A web comprising superabsorbent material and fibers wherein:
 - at least some of the fibers are coated onto the superabsorbent material prior to formation of the web,
 - the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about 0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material, and
 - some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is removed after formation of the web,
 - wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 60% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 9% when subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification.
2. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 1.
3. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein removing the liquid comprises causing or allowing evaporation of the liquid.
4. (Original) The web according to Claim 3, wherein the formed web further has been exposed to conditions that accelerate the evaporation of the liquid.
5. (Original) The web according to Claim 4, wherein the conditions that accelerate the evaporation of the liquid comprise an elevated temperature.

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6. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid is selected from solutions and mixtures that comprise water.
7. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises distilled water.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers comprise wood pulp fibers.
11. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers have been coated onto the superabsorbent material by combining the fibers and superabsorbent material in the presence of air agitation.
12. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the web is formed by depositing the coated superabsorbent material onto a surface.
13. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the web comprises one or more fibers, particles, materials or combinations thereof in addition to the fiber and the superabsorbent material.
14. (Original) The web according to Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles.

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15. (Previously Presented) A web comprising superabsorbent material and fibers wherein:

at least some of the fibers are coated onto the superabsorbent material prior to formation of the web,

the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains a liquid that it has absorbed, and

at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is removed after formation of the web;

wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles; and

wherein at least some of the particles comprise an outer layer comprising at least one type of superabsorbent material and an inner core comprising at least one other type of superabsorbent material that differs from the superabsorbent material in the outer layer.

16. (Previously Presented) A web comprising superabsorbent material and fibers wherein:

at least some of the fibers are coated onto the superabsorbent material prior to formation of the web,

the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains a liquid that it has absorbed, and

at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is removed after formation of the web;

wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles; and

wherein at least some of the particles are comprised of SAM that exhibits a gradual trend of decrease in crosslinking proceeding from the outer surface of the particle to the center of the particle.

17. (Previously Presented) A web comprising fibers and superabsorbent material, wherein the superabsorbent material contains at least about 0.5 grams of an absorbed liquid per gram of superabsorbent material during formation of the web and wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 60% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 9% when subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification.

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18. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 17.

19 - 27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) A web comprising fibers and superabsorbent material, wherein the superabsorbent material contains at least about 0.5 grams of an absorbed liquid per gram of superabsorbent material during formation of the web and wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 90% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 58% when subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification.

29. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 28.

30 - 34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) A web comprising:
fibers and superabsorbent material,
wherein the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about 0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material; wherein at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is removed after formation of the web;
wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 60% by dry weight; and
wherein the web loss experienced by the web when subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification is not a monotone nondecreasing function of the concentration of superabsorbent material in the web.

36. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 35.

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37. (Previously Presented) A web comprising:
fibers and superabsorbent material;
wherein the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about
0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material;
wherein at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is
removed after formation of the web;
wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 60%
by dry weight; and
wherein the web loss experienced by the web when subjected to the Shakeout Test
as set forth in the specification is a monotone nonincreasing function of the
concentration of superabsorbent material in the web.

38. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 37.

39 - 52. (Canceled).

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53. (Currently Amended) A web comprising:
fibers and at least one superabsorbent material at least partially coated with the
fibers;
wherein individual bodies of the superabsorbent materials have bonds with each
other, with fibers that are coated upon other bodies of the superabsorbent
material, or with a combination thereof;
wherein the superabsorbent material comprises a composition that forms such
bonds upon removal of a liquid contained in the superabsorbent material;
wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles;
wherein the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about
0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material;
wherein at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is
removed after formation of the web;
wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about
[[60%]] 80% by dry weight;
wherein the web experiences a web loss of less than about [[9%]] 3% when
subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification; and
wherein at least some of the particles comprise an outer layer comprising at least
one type of superabsorbent material and an inner core comprising at least one
other type of superabsorbent material that differs from the superabsorbent
material in the outer layer.

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54. (Currently Amended) A web comprising:
fibers and at least one superabsorbent material at least partially coated with the
fibers;
wherein individual bodies of the superabsorbent materials have bonds with each
other, with fibers that are coated upon other bodies of the superabsorbent
material, or with a combination thereof;
wherein the superabsorbent material comprises a composition that forms such
bonds upon removal of a liquid contained in the superabsorbent material;
wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles;
wherein the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about
0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material;
wherein at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is
removed after formation of the web;
wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about
[[60%]] 80% by dry weight;
wherein the web experiences a web loss of less than about [[9%]] 3% when
subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification; and
wherein at least some of the particles are comprised of superabsorbent material that
exhibits a gradual trend of decrease in crosslinking proceeding from the outer
surface of the particle to the center of the particle.
55. (Previously Presented) A web comprising fibers and superabsorbent material,
and wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about
90% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 5% when
subjected to the Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification.
56. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 55.
- 57 - 58. (Canceled).
59. (Previously Presented) The web according to Claim 55, wherein the fibers
comprise wood pulp fibers.

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60. (Previously Presented) The web according to Claim 55, wherein the fibers have been coated onto the superabsorbent material by combining the fibers and superabsorbent material in the presence of air agitation.

61. (Currently Amended) The web according to ~~Claim 55~~ Claim 60, wherein the web is formed by depositing the coated superabsorbent material onto a surface.

62. (Previously Presented) The web according to Claim 55, wherein the web comprises one or more fibers, particles, materials or combinations thereof in addition to the fiber and the superabsorbent material.

63. (Previously Presented) The web according to Claim 55, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles.

64. (Previously Presented) The web according to Claim 55, wherein the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about 0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material, and wherein at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is removed after formation of the web.

65. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 64.

66. (Previously Presented) A web comprising:
superabsorbent material and fibers;
wherein at least some of the fibers are coated onto the superabsorbent material;
wherein the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains at least about
0.5 grams of a liquid that it has absorbed per gram of superabsorbent material;
wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 60%
by dry weight;
wherein at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is
removed after formation of the web; and
wherein the web exhibits a web loss which generally decreases as the
superabsorbent material content of the web increases, as measured by the
Shakeout Test as set forth in the specification.

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67. (Previously Presented) The web of Claim 66, wherein at least some of the fibers are coated onto the superabsorbent material prior to formation of the web.